

Department of Health

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund-State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	1,251.9	118,367	611,249	729,616
Supplemental Changes				
Public Health Preparedness			7,347	7,347
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention			100	100
Drinking Water Protection			2,902	2,902
Federal Grants Spending Authority	10.7		36,181	36,181
Family Planning Pilot		250		250
Methamphetamine Control #	.9		188	188
Governor's Rural Health Initiative			700	700
Zoonotic Disease Program	2.2	439		439
Subtotal - Supplemental Changes	13.8	689	47,418	48,107
Total Proposed Budget	1,265.7	119,056	658,667	777,723
Difference	13.8	689	47,418	48,107
Percent Change	1.1%	.6%	7.8%	6.6%

Supplemental Changes

Public Health Preparedness

An \$18 million federal grant in Fiscal Year 2003 launched the department's Emergency Preparedness and Response activity. The grant was for 18 months, and 12 months of spending was incurred. The department's federal spending authority is increased this biennium to utilize the remaining funds. (General Fund-Federal)

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Activities related to childhood lead poisoning have been funded through a federal grant that expires in June 2004. The remainder of the biennium is funded with state dollars to allow the department to continue monitoring, coordination of appropriate follow-up, and maintenance of the database related to childhood lead poisoning. This

item supports the Epidemiology and Assessment activity. (Health Services Account-State)

Drinking Water Protection

New information since passage of the 2003-05 budget reveals higher than expected waterworks operator certification revenue and greater than expected program needs in the Drinking Water program. Fund balance is available to continue core business operations in the Department of Health's Drinking Water Protection activity in the 2003-05 Biennium, as follows: \$325,000 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan fee account to administer the DWSRF capital loan program; \$2,156,000 in additional federal set-aside spending authority to continue core regulatory work with public water systems; and \$420,000 in additional spending authority in waterworks operator certification fee revenues to provide increased training opportunities for small water system operators. (Drinking Water Assistance Account-Federal; Waterworks Operator Certification Account-State; Drinking Water Assistance Administrative Account-State)

Federal Grants Spending Authority

Updated estimates of available federal funds exceed the agency's current federal expenditure authority. An increase in the appropriation will allow the Department of Health to spend additional federal funds for many department activities. Examples include Chronic Disease and Health Promotion (heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and cancer), Maternal and Child Health (the Women, Infants, and Children program, and immunizations), Infectious Disease Control (HIV/AIDS prevention, tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted disease prevention and control), and Epidemiology and Assessment. (General Fund-Federal)

Family Planning Pilot

The Department of Health's Family Planning and Reproductive Health program will run a pilot program in Yakima County to target its services to low-income women and men who are not likely to qualify for Medicaid services through the Department of Social and Health Services. The pilot program shall be designed to improve family planning services for an additional 1,000 people in an area of the state with a large underserved population. This item affects the Maternal and Child Health activity.

Methamphetamine Control #

An agency request bill would give the department, and the Board of Pharmacy, regulatory tools to prevent wholesale and retail transactions in excessive quantities of ephedrine products that represent an early stage of methamphetamine trafficking. The Board's data on suspicious transactions suggest that some convenience stores are acquiring massive quantities of these products, far exceeding any plausible demand for legitimate consumption. The bill combines regulatory enforcement and criminal penalties, allowing the Board and the department to partner effectively with law enforcement agencies to reduce this activity. The bill supports the Safety and Quality of Healthcare Services activity, since the department authorizes convenience stores to sell over-the-counter medication. A portion of current convenience store fees will pay for periodic on-site inspections, management and reporting of data. (Health Professions Account-State)

Governor's Rural Health Initiative

The Governor has directed several agencies to make a collection of investments designed to improve the rural health infrastructure. Among them are enhancements to Medicaid labor and delivery reimbursement rates to assist practitioners with related medical malpractice premium costs and ensure that rural facilities are able to retain at least two maternity care providers on staff; extension of the school loan repayment program for students who will practice in regions and specialties experiencing shortages; and extension of school nurse corps investments.

Two elements of the initiative are funded within the Department of Health budget and support the Health Systems/Public Health Systems Development activity. State funding in the amount of \$300,000 will triple the program that provides assistance to retired practitioners with medical malpractice premiums, and remove barriers they currently experience to volunteering their time and expertise in not-for-profit clinics.

The telemedicine network for all critical access hospitals will be completed with an addition of \$400,000 in state funding. The telemedicine network will ensure that residents across the state have access to specialty services and resources, and that providers have access to the latest safety and training information. A broad network will also be available to assist with emergency preparedness activities and public health emergencies. (Health Services Account-State)

Zoonotic Disease Program

The recent emergence of zoonotic diseases (diseases transmitted from insect and animals to humans), such as West Nile virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, and monkeypox, has greatly increased demands on the Department of Health and its Infectious Disease Control activity. Additional funding will help ensure rapid identification, response and prevention of these diseases in Washington.